

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 33 - SB 30

March 30, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires “husband,” “wife,” “mother,” and “father” be given their natural and ordinary meaning.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 1-3-105 sets forth various definitions for terms used throughout statute. The proposed legislation adds a subsection to Tenn. Code Ann. § 1-3-105 requiring the terms “husband,” “wife,” “mother,” and “father” be given their natural and ordinary meaning, without forced or subtle construction that would limit or extend the meaning of the language and that are based on the biological distinctions between men and women.
- “Legislation intent is to be ascertained primarily from the natural and ordinary meaning of the language used, without a forced or subtle construction that would limit or extend the meaning of the language.” *State v. Alford*, 970 S.W.2d 944, 946 (Tenn. 198).
- The proposed legislation differs from this tenet by also requiring the biological distinctions between men and women.
- Though the proposed legislation differs from the well-accepted canon of statutory construction, the proposed legislation will not significantly impact the courts’ interpretation of husband, wife, mother, or father.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee".

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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